A REVIEW OF THE STATE OF THE BRITISH NATION.

Tuesday, May 20 1712.

IT is one of the pleasantest Things in the World of its kind, to hear the People of this Age Argue *with one another* about Peace; let but a Man lay up in his Heart what they say to-day, and compare it with what they say to-morrow, and nothing is more Inconsistent: Let it be said on which side it will, whether *Whig* or *Tory*, I cannot help my Opinion about it; I think they both talk alike, as to the Consistency of their Discourse, about Peace and War.

'Tis but a little while ago, our *Tory High-Flying* Writers, in their Discourses of a Peace, allow'd, that no Peace could be, without a PARTITION, *a Thing I have always publickly spoken as my Thoughts of the Matter*: How many worthy Schemes of this Partition did the Learned Mr. *Post-Boy* accommodate the World with? The *Examiner's* Discourse tended frequently to A PARTITION, and we are full of *Tory-Pamphlets* to that purpose; my, *the poor Review* was Challeng'd with Writing for the *Jacobites*, and I know not how much *Billingsgate* bestow'd on him on that score, because of his Writing for A PARTITION,

TION, *tho' he had written the ſame five Year ago*; How often was he told that he chim'd in with the *Tories*, and was Writing for a *French Intereſt*, becauſe he was for A PARTITION? Well, you would not ſtoop to this, and truly now the *Tories* will not ſtand to their own Schemes; *Abel*'s Friends fall off from him in it, and now they are for giving the whole *Spaniſh* Monarchy, Undivided, and without *a Partition*, to King *Philip*; the *Examiner* alſo oppoſes *a Partition* with all his might, and their other Authors begin to talk of the Safety of giving the *Spaniſh Monarchy* to King *Philip*, in Caſe of his Renunciation of his Title to *France*; of which I ſhall ſpeak very plainly at laſt too.

One Inference then I hope I may be allow'd, *viz. That a Partition was no Tory Project*; That they who Argu'd for a Partition, were not gratifying the *Tories* and acting for a *French* Intereſt; for if this be not true, then all our *Whigs* are now turn'd about, and fallen in with the *Jacobites*.

We find them a while ago, Exploding the Notion of *a Partition*; directly, obliquely, and every Way oppoſing it, as againſt our Intereſt, and Unſafe, and in ſhort, as Chiming in with the *Tories*: But now! *Tempora Mutantur*! Now, as if they would Compound for *a Partition*, they Challenge it of the *Examiner*, and Argue for *a Partition* to carry on our *South-Sea* Trade.

Said I not all along, that Juſt Heaven would puniſh this unſatisfy'd Generation for their Treatment of King *William*, in the Affair of *the Partition*? — Talk no more of Parties, Miniſtry, and the *Tory Intereſt*, I tell you, in Judgment to your Contempt of that Prince's Memory, you ſhall never be able to come up to ſo good Terms, as the Partition which he had laid the Scheme of; but you ſhall be oblig'd to make Conditions far ſhort of them, or die in the Wilderneſs of this War.

Nor is it any Thing to the purpoſe, to ſay you might have had better Conditions at *Ghertruydenbergh* — I ſee two plain Anſwers to it, which I am ſorry to give.

1. If it be true, whoſe Fault was it, thoſe better Terms were not accepted?
2. But I clear the late Miniſtry of that Charge, *by ſaying*, the *French* did not offer ſo much then, and if you pleaſe to return to the Anſwer of the *Dutch* Miniſters, you will ſee the *French* offer'd *Nothing*, that is, nothing with a Security for the Performance, which is indeed offering *nothing at all*.

From hence I ſay, that you had never ſo good Terms of Peace offer'd, *notwithſtanding ſo many Victories*, as the *Partition* offer'd by the late King: A Treaty ſo Calculated for a laſting Peace, ſo effectually forming a true Ballance of Power, that *Europe* muſt have remain'd for ever at reſt.

But now, one Side are for giving it all to *France*, the other are for giving it all to the Emperor, and neither Side know *by it* what they are doing: When the *Tory* was for a Partition, *No*, the *Whig* was for all or none to the Emperor, *not a Foot to* Philip, *no, not to bury him in*: Now the *Whig* would come in for a Partition, but the *Tory* is for *all to Philip*: Both theſe mad Extremes I have oppos'd from the beginning, *and hope I ſhall to the End*; the middle Way between both, is the ſafe, the juſt, the moſt Reaſonable; as clipping the Wings of both, that neither the *French* with his *Meridian Sun* may ſcorch us, nor the Voracious *Roman Eagle* may devour us.

My

My Aim has been all along at PROTESTANT GREATNESS; I am for making no *Popiſh* Tyrant a Maſter of *Europe*; I ſay NONE, neither *French* or *German*, they are all alike to me; I think the Proteſtant Powers of *Britain* and *Holland*, ought NOW to *hold the Ballance of Europe*, and not hold the Candle to *Popery* any longer: I have often ſaid, we ought to have ſome ſhare of this great Prize, who have ventur'd ſo much *in the Lottery* of the War: We have Erected a *South-Sea Company*, and we ought to demand a Portion for our Trade, that the Commerce of the World may help to make us amends a little, for all the Treaſure Expended, and Blood ſpilt in this Quarrel.

VVhat have we hitherto fought for, if one *Popiſh* Power ſhall ſtill poſſeſs this Glorious Prize? If ever St. *Peter's* Trumpet ſounds another Cruiſado, *as formerly it did againſt the Waldenſes* and *Albigenſes*, and the Count *de Thouloufe*, how ſhall we be all cruſh'd by that very Power we have Erected? Did not *French* and *German* join together, to Oppreſs and Root out Chriſt's Church from the Earth?

But a Partition puts an End to the whole Strife, *France* may have enough to gratifie his Ambition, the Emperor enough to make him a Match for *France*; *Britain* and *Holland* ſuch a ſhare of Commerce, VVealth, *and eſpecially Naval Strength*, as may make them United, a Superior Power to the other two, and able to maintain the Proteſtant Intereſt, let *Popery* and the *Devil* do their worſt.

VVhat can any Man ſay, why VVE, *of all the Confederates*, ſhould have no Advantage by the Peace? Why the Proteſtant Religion, and the Proteſtant Churches of *Germany*, ſhould weigh nothing in all our Cogitations about Peace? VVretched Politicans! VVill ye Erect a *Popiſh* Tyranny in *Europe* above the Proteſtant Intereſt, when you have it in your Hands to Secure the Proteſtant Religion againſt them all?

This is what I have always made the Subject of my Schemes, *and theſe are my Reaſons for it*; I have been ſufficiently abuſed for it on the *Whig* Side, and now the *Tory* Side are againſt me in it, and ſtill I thank God I ſee no Reaſon to alter my Mind; I ſee no Force in any Arguments againſt a Partition: Both Sides have puſh'd on their Party-Intereſts againſt it, but ſtill I muſt ſay, *as it was ever my Opinion*, no ſafe Peace can be obtain'd, without ſome Diſmembrings of the *Spaniſh* Monarchy, ſo I ſee no Convincing Reaſon to alter my Opinion, and I ſcorn to do it without a Convincing Reaſon for any Party or Perſon in the World.

VVhat Ballance of Power can be Eſtabliſh'd in *Europe*, if the *Spaniſh* Monarchy be left whole, to Encline in a VVar *this Way* or *that* in one dead VVeight? The VVealth of the *Indies* is ſo great, that whoever joins with *Spain*, will beat all the VVorld by the meer Force of Money, will Conquer the reſt, *au Coup d'Argent*: No Equality which is the great Safety of Nations, can be ſuppoſed here; nothing can do it without a PARTITION; let us ſee the VViſe Heads of this Age do it any other VVay if they can.

Spain never was annex'd to any Crown, but it raiſed ſuch Ambition in the Minds of the Princes Reigning, that it was intollerable to the VVorld; as in *Charles* V. Emperor and King of *Spain*; *Philip* II. King of *England* and King of *Spain*, and now in the *French* King: VVhat then can be ſo well propos'd, as to pull this Monſter to pieces, and let *Iſrael divide his Coaſt*, and *the Seed of Jacob his Dwellings*— That *England* and *Holland* may have a ſafe Footing in the VVealthy Countries of *Peru* and *Chili*; that

that our Manufactures, Navigation, and Commerce may be Encouraged and Encreaſed, and the Return of Bullion in Specie for our own growth, may Enrich our People at Home.

This would in ſome part, Recompence us for the Loſſes of a Dreadful VVar; this would help Redeem us out of Debt and Uſury, to which the Nation is ſold for 99 Years; this would revive and reſtore our Trade, Employ and Encourage our Poor, and make *Great Britain* and *Holland* for ever hold the Ballance of *Europe*.

This is what I have ſaid all along, now ſay again, and believe I ſhall rather be able to ſay, I wiſh to ſee it, than expect it will come to paſs.

To what Exceſſes then has Party-Rage driven ſome Men among us? And where *ye Hypocrites in Politicks!* will ye ſhew your Faces when the Honeſt People of *Britain* ſhall ask you hereafter, *What have ye been doing? What for your Country? What for the Proteſtant Intereſt? What did you fight* 20 *Year for? What load us and our Children with Taxes for?* VVas it to make a Peace and give all the Advantages out of your Hands, to other Nations? *Was it for this* ye pull'd down *France*, to ſet up another Exorbitant Popiſh Power to threaten the Chriſtian VVorld, and to keep the Proteſtants in a continual Allarm; to oblige them to keep great Armies always in pay, and to keep the poor Subjects always under weighty Impoſitions and heavy Taxes? VVhy ſhould you not rather have kept the Ballance of *Europe* in Proteſtant Hands? VVhy not have Erected the Mountain of God's Houſe above the Top of the Mountains, and made the Civil Power of the Church of God Superior to the *Popiſh* Tyrants of *Europe*? VVhy did you not effectually deliver the Reformed Chriſtians of *Europe*, and their Intereſt, from the Tyranny of Antichriſt, and take the Foot of *Popery* off from the Necks of the Proteſtant Princes? *Will ye anſwer*, we had no VVay to pull down the Greatneſs of *France*, but by giving the *Spaniſh* Monarchy to the Emperor?

Ridiculous Pageantry! VVhy then did you not give it to the Emperor *at firſt*, but allot *Spain* over his Head, to to his Youngeſt Son, over the Heads of his Eldeſt Son and all his Poſterity, *for he was then likely to have had many Children?* VVas it not, becauſe, *at that Time* you had your Politick VVits about you, and ſaw the Intereſt of *Chriſtendom? Was it not* becauſe then you were Convinc'd, that to make an Emperor King of *Spain*, was Sacrificing the Proteſtant Intereſt to future Deſtruction, to deliver it from preſent Deſtruction: Splitting the Cauſe of God upon *German Scylla*, to avoid *French Charybdis?* If this was not the Reaſon, I Challenge them all, *Whig* or *Tory*, to ſhew me another.

But as ſoon as Party-Madneſs affects our Heads, we baniſh all the Care and Thought for Poſterity, or for the Proteſtant Intereſt, and will give all the Power of *Europe*, *for ſuch in a manner it will be*, into the Hands of a Cruel Perſecuting, Proteſtant hating Race, and this, on the weak, abſurd, and I may ſay, truly Ridiculous Pretence, that *it muſt be ſo to pull down France*; forgetting, forſooth, or wilfully rejecting, *God forgive them*, that they had their own Strength to Erect, as a Medium between both; that Proteſtant Greatneſs was the happy Prize Heaven gave them now an Opportunity to Erect, for the neglect of which, Poſterity, I doubt not, will Curſe them, and God himſelf will ſeverely Afflict them.

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